



# Idaho Crop & Livestock Producer News

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture

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*Dear Respondent:*

*This issue of the Idaho Crop and Livestock Producers' News covers the results of the December 2009 Bee and Honey Inquiry. Total Honey production, yield per colony and average price per pound are reported for Idaho and the U.S.*

*For more information contact us at [nass-id@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-id@nass.usda.gov) or at 1-800-691-9987. Thank you for reporting and your continued support.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ralph V. Matthews*

*Vince Matthews  
Director*

## Idaho Honey Production Increased 32 Percent

Idaho honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 4.74 million pounds, a 32 percent increase from 2008. Honey producing colonies are estimated at 103,000 colonies, up 13,000 colonies from last year. Yield per colony averaged 46 pounds, up six pounds from 2008. Producer honey stocks were 1.71 million pounds on December 15, 2009, an increase of 18 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is \$1.45, down one cent from a year ago.

Nationally, Honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 144 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2008. There were 2.46 million colonies producing honey in 2009, up 5 percent from 2008. Yield per colony averaged 58.5 pounds, down 16 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2008, and is the lowest yield since 1989.

Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 37.2 million pounds on December 15, 2009, down 27 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2009 to 144.5 cents, up 2 percent from 142.1 cents in 2008. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2008 crop reflect honey sold in 2008 and 2009. Some 2008 crop honey was sold in 2009, which caused some revisions to the 2008 crop prices.

### Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2008-2009

Color Class	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>		<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>		<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>	
Water White, Extra White, White	138.9	140.8	195.0	272.1	141.2	142.3
Extra Light Amber	135.2	141.7	209.7	242.4	140.7	146.1
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	127.4	133.6	240.5	275.6	142.0	144.6
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	143.3	138.5	326.8	394.8	205.9	217.8
All Honey	135.4	139.2	224.7	278.4	142.1	144.5

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,  
and Value by State and United States, 2009<sup>1/</sup>**

State	Honey Producing Colonies <sup>2/</sup>	Yield Per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 <sup>3/</sup>	Average Price per Pound <sup>4/</sup>	Value of Production <sup>5/</sup>
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>--1,000 Pounds--</i>		<i>Cents</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
Alabama	9	49	441	66	182	803
Arizona	20	52	1,040	562	153	1,591
Arkansas	24	57	1,368	301	139	1,902
California	355	33	11,715	2,109	139	16,284
Colorado	28	53	1,484	326	140	2,078
Florida	150	68	10,200	1,428	138	14,076
Georgia	65	41	2,665	346	147	3,918
Hawaii	10	95	950	323	163	1,549
Idaho	103	46	4,738	1,706	145	6,870
Illinois	8	34	272	57	226	615
Indiana	9	32	288	101	198	570
Iowa	26	42	1,092	339	151	1,649
Kansas	9	63	567	164	189	1,072
Kentucky	5	35	175	25	273	478
Louisiana	37	103	3,811	610	132	5,031
Maine	6	50	300	51	186	558
Michigan	66	60	3,960	1,505	151	5,980
Minnesota	122	65	7,930	1,427	140	11,102
Mississippi	14	104	1,456	87	132	1,922
Missouri	11	47	517	57	198	1,024
Montana	146	70	10,220	3,577	145	14,819
Nebraska	48	56	2,688	1,102	144	3,871
Nevada	10	52	520	57	129	671
New Jersey	9	32	288	46	193	556
New Mexico	7	60	420	143	163	685
New York	47	65	3,055	978	183	5,591
North Carolina	11	45	495	84	252	1,247
North Dakota	450	77	34,650	7,623	137	47,471
Ohio	11	50	550	132	275	1,513
Oregon	55	34	1,870	767	149	2,786
Pennsylvania	21	40	840	319	199	1,672
South Dakota	270	66	17,820	6,237	139	24,770
Tennessee	7	51	357	86	235	839
Texas	74	63	4,662	886	138	6,434
Utah	26	38	988	198	147	1,452
Vermont	5	49	245	69	236	578
Virginia	6	39	234	56	328	768
Washington	62	44	2,728	1,064	149	4,065
West Virginia	5	37	185	33	267	494
Wisconsin	63	60	3,780	1,588	151	5,708
Wyoming	37	48	1,776	391	143	2,540
Other States <sup>6/ 7/</sup>	15	51	768	127	280	2,150
US <sup>7/ 8/</sup>	2,462	58.5	144,108	37,153	144.5	208,236

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State. 2/ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year. 3/ Stocks held by producers. 4/ Average price per pound based on expanded sales. 5/ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound. 6/ CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. 7/ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production. 8/ Summation of States will not equal U.S. level value of production.

**A THANK YOU TO ALL IDAHO FARM AND RANCH OPERATORS**

Your cooperation in completing agricultural surveys from this office is greatly **APPRECIATED**. Accurate, useful estimates are vital in decision making. All estimates derived from these surveys, along with other pertinent agricultural data, are published in our regular series of releases. All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). If you have any questions or require additional information, you may reach us toll free at 1-800-691-9987.